

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-88 (Canceled)

Claim 89 (Currently Amended): A stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide that consists of 20 to 100 nucleotides when single-stranded, or 20 to 100 base-pairs when double-stranded, which stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide contains at least one nonmethylated octameric CG motif of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9);

wherein said stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide is chemically modified and resistant to degradation by nucleases in the human body compared to the corresponding unmodified, oligodeoxyribonucleotide in a natural form that is sensitive to the nucleases in the human body.

Claim 90 (Currently Amended): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide ~~oligonucleotide~~ of Claim 89 that is stabilized by a modified backbone selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate, a phosphorodithioate, a phosphodiester-phosphorothioate mixture, a methylphosphonate, and a stabilization at a 3' or 5' end.

Claim 91 (Currently Amended): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide ~~oligonucleotide~~ of Claim 89, wherein the cytosine in said motif is replaced with 5-bromocytosine.

Claim 92 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising the stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide ~~oligonucleotide~~ of Claim 89 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

Claim 93 (Currently Amended): A method for treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of the stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide ~~oligonucleotide~~ of Claim 89 to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 94 (New): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 which is single-stranded.

Claim 95 (New): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 which is double-stranded.

Claim 96 (New): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 that contains several nonmethylated octameric CG motifs of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9).

Claim 97 (New): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 that contains two or three nonmethylated octameric CG motifs of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9).

Claim 98 (New): A stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide that consists of 20 to 100 nucleotides when single-stranded, or 20 to 100 base-pairs when double-stranded, which stabilized oligonucleotide contains at least one nonmethylated octameric CG motif of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9) that has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, 10, 16, 21, 31, 33, 34 and 35.

Claim 99 (New): The composition of Claim 92, comprising an encapsulating agent.

Claim 100 (New): The composition of Claim 92, comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claim 101 (New): The composition of Claim 92, comprising a polymer.

Claim 102 (New): The composition of Claim 92, wherein the oligodeoxyribonucleotide is coupled to a molecule that increases the affinity of the composition to a tumor.

Claim 103 (New): The composition of Claim 92, wherein the oligodeoxyribonucleotide is coupled to an antibody specific for tumor tissue.

Claim 104 (New): The method of Claim 93, wherein said subject is human.

Claim 105 (New): The method of Claim 93, wherein said subject has a tumor.

Claim 106 (New): The method of Claim 93, wherein said subject has cancer of the nervous system.

Claim 107 (New): The method of Claim 93, wherein said subject has astrocytoma, glioblastoma, medulloblastoma, neuroblastoma, melanoma or carcinoma.